

Wings Over Florida Rules

The “Wings Over Florida” bird program awards full color certificates at seven achievement levels to birdwatchers who report their life and/or big year lists to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. This program is a free service to all.

Official Rules

1. No Exotic species can be counted (see below).
2. All birds counted towards your certificate total must be
 - a. seen and/or heard in Florida (Pelagic species count if seen in Florida waters).
 - b. Alive and wild when observed. NOTE: Birds escaped from a zoo or collection do not count.
 - c. Seen and/or heard by the person submitting the application.
3. Only one individual per application.
4. This program runs on the honor system. However, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Mangrove Cuckoo and Florida Big Year certificate applicants may be asked to provide supporting documentation via email. An applicant’s eBird checklist for example would qualify as supporting documentation.
5. All species seen and/or heard were done so in an ethical manner. For more information on birding ethics visit the American Birding Association code of ethics webpage listing.aba.org/ethics/

Nonnative (exotic) species, established or non-established are **NOT** countable towards your Wings Over Florida total. The following 15 species have been confirmed as established exotics in Florida: Egyptian Goose, Muscovy Duck, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Gray-headed Swamphen, Monk Parakeet, Nanday Parakeet, White-winged Parakeet, Red-whiskered Bulbul, European Starling, Common Myna, Spot-breasted Oriole, House Finch, House Sparrow. There are many more non-established exotics in Florida (too numerous to list) which also do not count towards this program. Visit myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/birds/ for a comprehensive exotic bird list.

Certificate Levels

Florida Life List

This list includes all the bird species (excluding exotics) you have seen within your lifetime within the state of Florida.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (25 to 49 species)
Roseate Spoonbill (50 to 99 species)
Florida Scrub-Jay (100 to 199 species)
Crested Caracara (200 to 299 species)
Red-cockaded Woodpecker (300 to 399 species)
Mangrove Cuckoo (400+ species)

Big Year List

This list includes all the bird species (excluding exotics) you have seen in Florida between January 1 and December 31.

NOTE: We print your final Big Year total on to your certificate so try to see as many species as possible within the qualifying dates.

Wings Over Florida is a program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. If you have any questions regarding the rules and application process, please contact the Wings Over Florida coordinator Travis Blunden at (850) 488-9453 or travis.blunden@myfwc.com OR the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail coordinator Liz Schold at (850) 488-9478 or liz.schold@myfwc.com.